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428CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East GermanySECURITY INFORMATION
REPORTTOPIC Military Information from the Maneuver Area in Thuringia

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

9 November 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 15 October 1953, [] the road leading eastward from Arnstadt toward Marlshausen and Wuellersleben in the Thuringian maneuver area was blocked to civilian traffic. VP sentries told that numerous other roads in Thuringia were blocked. Intensive traffic of columns moving west and southwest along the roads west of Arnstadt was observed. No columns were seen southeast of Ilmenau. The Polizei Kaserne in Suhl was occupied only by a guard detail of about 60 to 70 soldiers who wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. [] empty rolling stock for the return shipments of troops had already been assembled and made available. [] empty trains at a number of stations at which unloadings had been made and loadings were to be made again. The stations included Suhl with 50 boxcars and 30 flatcars, Zella-Mehlis, Graefenroda with 50 boxcars, Plaue, Arnstadt, Neudietendorf and Weimar. 25X1
2. On 16 October, troops started returning to Weimar from the maneuver. At about 3:30 p.m., about 40 trucks including 24 towing mortars entered the Tannenberg Kaserne. The trucks were heavily soiled and some of the motor vehicle which had formerly been [] 25X1
3. During the night of 16 October, the barracks installations in Weimar, except some buildings of the Tannenberg Kaserne, were only lightly lighted. The Tannenberg Kaserne was about 40 percent lighted. 1
4. [] the maneuvers in Thuringia terminated on 16 October. The following shipments passed through Weimar toward an easterly direction on 17 and 18 October. 25X1

At 9 a.m. on 17 October, 7 x 76-mm artillery pieces and about 30 trucks [] 25X1

At 6 p.m. on 17 October, 1 x 76-mm artillery piece and 20 trucks [] on an undetermined number of flatcars and troops on 8 boxcars.

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At 9:30 a.m. on 18 October, 40 to 50 sidecar motorcycles, 6 jeeps and 3 trucks [] on an undetermined number of flatcars and troops on 8 boxcars.

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At 10 a.m. on 18 October, 12 T-34/85 tanks [] and 8 to 10 trucks []

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Other trains which passed through Weimar on 18 October could not be observed [] At 7:30 a.m. on 18 October, a signal unit with about 50 vehicles including 3 sedans, an undetermined number of jeeps and an undetermined number of trucks [] was loaded at the Weimar freight station.³ The following east-bound shipments passed through Erfurt on 17 October:

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At 1:45 p.m. 1 x 76-mm gun and 15 trucks []

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At 3 p.m. 7 T-34/85 tanks and trucks. All numbers were pasted over.

At 3:30 p.m. 14 guns of about 152 mm, 14 prime movers []

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5. On the morning of 18 October, 10 shipments moved along the Eisenach-Erfurt railroad line toward Erfurt from the direction of Eisenach. They included 1 shipment of 8 T-34/85 tanks and an undetermined number of trucks, 1 shipment of an undetermined number of four-wheel armored scout cars, 1 half-track vehicle with a short-barreled gun, 2 shipments of an undetermined number of field howitzers of about 150 mm with trucks, 3 shipments of rocket launchers, including one train with 14 guns and one train with 12 guns and trucks.⁴ The other shipments carried trucks and other unidentified materiel. On the afternoon of 18 October, many trucks occupied by personnel moved along the roads toward an easterly direction. 5

1. [] Comment. Report again confirms the 581st Gds Mort Regt [] of the 20th Gds Mecz Div in the Tannenberg Kaserne, Weimar, until 16 October 1953.

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2. [] Comment. According to the tank turret [] the tank shipment observed on 18 October belongs to the 20th Gds Mecz Div in Zeitz.

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3. [] Comment. According to the motor vehicle [] a signal unit of the GOFG was loaded.

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4. [] Comment. The shipments are probably identical with those of the 25th Gds RL Brig from Neudietendorf to Rathenow, []

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5. [] Comment. The other shipments mentioned in paragraphs 4 and 5 cannot be identified.

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